



Third Quarter 2003
California National Guard
Counterdrug Task Force

Inside This Issue

- 2 CSM Message**
- 3 Safari Night**
- 4 CDTF bags 20,000lb marijuana seizure**
- 5 VIP Visits**
- 6 CDTF Member makes History in Middle East**
- 7 Safety Message**
- 8 TWO commander takes offroading to the next level**

**Counterdrug Headquarters
Sacramento, CA**

Public Affairs Note:

For reasons of operational security, the last names of most CDTF members are not published

California National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

The Informer

Message from HQ

LTC Richard M.H. Loesch

Here we are at the end of the FY 2003 3rd Quarter with 25% of our task force deployed, battles being fought in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the need to continue with every aspect of our counterdrug campaign. This is a challenging and changing time. How should we treat it?

We all know the one constant in life is change. We do not always want it, nor like it, but change is a given. People and organizations that refuse to change lose their relevancy and just drop off the radarscope of those who move with the times. Change challenges us to adapt or be left behind. We cannot allow this task force to drop off radarscopes nor fall short of future challenges. Our mission is too vital. We have a road to relevance and success. What is it? Let's start with how the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) wants us to change.

Many of you have heard about the mission transition effort by OSD for our counterdrug effort. This effort seeks to eliminate the "whack and stack" portion of marijuana eradication (mission 3a), maintenance/logistic support to law enforcement agencies (LEA) – mission 3c -, and cargo/mail inspection (mission 3d). OSD believes these missions are not what we, as soldiers and airmen, need to focus on. Instead, OSD would have us increase our efforts to provide analysts, linguists, and drug demand reduction specialists to LEAs and community based organizations (CBO).

Should we adhere to this redirection, we will disappoint several of our long time customers. We have taken the time to brief as many supported LEAs and CBOs as we could regarding this impending mission transition. We told them to voice their concerns with their respective congressional representatives if they had problems with this transition. Nevertheless, the bottom line is; we will no longer be involved in the "whack and stack" portion of 3a in FY 04 nor missions 3c/d after 30 September 2004 unless and



until Congress directs otherwise. What does this mean?

We are a supporting task force. We structure ourselves based upon what those we support need within the guidelines provided by National Guard Bureau and our Adjutant General. OSD believes our talents and readiness as soldiers and airmen are not served by performing the "whack and stack" portion of 3a nor 3c. 3d remains an important mission, but not one the Department of Defense (DoD) believes they should pay for. Instead, DoD sees that mission as one the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) needs to assume and resource. Therefore, we must plan to redirect our soldiers and airmen to those missions we will continue to resource. How will this affect our soldiers and airmen performing the missions we are discontinuing?

First off, if our soldiers and airmen meet the requirements for transitioning to other mission categories, that's what we'll do. In other words, I INTEND TO KEEP AS MANY OF YOU ON THIS TASK FORCE EMPLOYED ON THIS TASK FORCE as our budget allows! We have a continuing need to put our soldiers and airmen into the HIDTAs and LEA narcotic task forces as case support analysts. We have never been able to totally fill the analyst requirements being asked of us. We need to fulfill this requirement. Those of you, especially if you are currently employed in the transitioning missions, who have

See "Message" on page 7

CSM's Message

By CSM Bill Lewellen

This has been another hectic and stressful last few months for the members of the Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) due to the possibility of transformation, budget shortfalls and deployments. Remember, that the Commander always has your best interest and concerns as a number one priority.

Welcome home to the soldiers and airmen that are returning from **E n d u r i n g Freedom and Nobel Eagle**. God Speed to our friends that have or will be deployed soon. My thoughts are with you. As a reminder, with the deployments and retirements it is imperative that we are cross-trained in other CD positions to ensure that our missions are completed. One individual dose not make a team.

I want to stress the importance of communication. Regardless of where the information or task begins in the chain of command or NCO support channel, we must keep our counterparts informed. Information must be passed on to the lowest level.

As I have visited various teams, there has been numerous incidences where our soldiers and airmen have not received the correct information. A positive relationship between officers and NCOs creates conditions for success.

Change with in the Counterdrug Program is inevitable. For some, accepting change is difficult and sometimes not everyone understands why, which developes rumors. Again, this is the reason that communication to the lowest level is important. I also want to stress that the individuals receiving the information need to listen to what is being said and not what you want to hear. If you do not understand, ask for clarification.



Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and efforts in passing the NGB-CD Command Program Evaluation (CPE). California set the Standards again!

Recently the Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major, CSM Frank Lever III, accompanied with the 40th Infantry Division (M) CSM, the 49th Combat Support Command CSM and various Major Command CSMs, visited our southern teams, Task Force Engineer and Team Shield. CSM Lever was very impressed with the professionalism of our soldiers and airmen within the program. He presented Coins of Excellence to many of our personnel.

I wish to welcome CSM Sally Donahe as the first Command Sergeant Major to our next higher command, the Joint Staff Division at OTAG. CSM Donahe is a great individual and will be a positive influence to the soldiers and airmen. CSM Donahe and I will be visiting all the teams within the next month.

As a reminder, the Counterdrug Program is based on year to year funding. I encourage all of you to continue improving your education and professional skills. Always look to the horizon for better opportunities.

We have had a high rate of alcohol related incidents. I am here to tell you that alcohol abuse within this program will not be tolerated. If you drink **DO NOT DRIVE**.

I will retire June 30, 2003. I regret that this will be the end of my military career and I will miss my friendship and working association with you.

As I depart I want all of you to know that I have the highest respect for all of you and the missions and tasks that you have accomplished. I am certain that you will continue to perform in the same professional manner as you have during my tenure as your Command Sergeant Major.

Again thank you for all that you do for this great country. You are all great Americans and I am proud to be part of **YOUR** team.

There will be very demanding times ahead of you. Stay prepared and be ready. Remember that being prepared first starts with the family!

**Continue to Look Forward
Plan Backwards
Be Safe**

Retirement Notice

SMSgt Jimmy Alcorn served with the Counterdrug Task Force from 1998 until 2003 as the Southern California Network Administrator assigned to the HQ J6 Staff. SMSgt Alcorn directly supported TSH, Task Force Engineer, TMO, Southern DDR teams, TME (AAFOB), and occasionally helped out at HQ in Sacramento. His significant achievements earned him 1 MSM, 2 Army Commendation medals, and an Air Commendation Medal while serving with the Counterdrug Task Force. Other achievements include NCOIC of communications for Operation Aero Safe - Southern Task Force, NCOIC of communications for the Pine Fires HQ in Julian, Ca.

After retiring in January 2003 from the Counterdrug Task Force, SMSgt Alcorn started working for the TSA (Transportation Security Administration) as a Supervisor for Airport Security in Yuma, Arizona where he now lives with his wife and two youngest children.

SMSgt. Jimmy Alcorn recieves an award from the CDC for his service to the CDTF.



Zoo outing gives city kids a taste of nature

By Gwendolyn Crump — Bee Staff Writer

Published 2:15 a.m. PDT Thursday, May 1, 2003

At dawn, some creatures at the Sacramento Zoo began to stir. Curious cheetahs peered around their enclosure. Pink flamingos socialized at the lake. And Julio, the zoo's blue and gold macaw, did what he does best — squawking so loudly he woke sleeping campers.

The young visitors took delight in the bird's screeching, applauding and asking him to do it again, and Julio obliged them.

More than 400 fifth-graders from Sacramento City Unified schools are camping overnight at the zoo this week as part of a reward for children who stay in school.

"I think it's really fun," said Miriam Hernandez, a student at H.W. Harkness Elementary School. "I've been to the zoo before but not to sleep here."

Miriam, 10, said she learned about hyenas and how strong they are.

The program is a partnership with the California National Guard, Sacramento police, the zoo, and Sacramento City Unified School District.

The overnight trip is part of the district's Truancy Reduction/Dropout Prevention Program. To participate, students had to live up to a contract they signed stating they would demonstrate good attendance, good behavior and have no suspensions.

"It was a big deal," said Mary Hardin Young, principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary. She said some of her students often remind each other to behave and to come to school so they won't miss out on the fun.

The Overnight Safari program allows children to have animal encounters they might not have on a typical zoo visit. These students watched a zoo staff member toss bones to hyenas. The animals yelped as they scurried to retrieve the food, and the children mimicked the hyenas' howl.

Students also enjoyed listening to stories, ate hearty meals and went on a scavenger hunt to solve a word puzzle.

SGT Joshua W., a chaperone at the Overnight Safari, shines a flashlight on a Sacramento Zoo map being studied by, from left, **Alex Renteria, 10; John Gearhart, 11; Pavel Krasnyanskiy, 12; and Kayson Slaughter, 10.**



MSG Peggy P., left, of the California National Guard, and **Connie Van Sickle**, a Sacramento County probation officer, try to make out a map in dim light Tuesday night at the zoo.

For the puzzle, the children had to gather letters from clues at stations throughout the zoo to spell out a word. The word was "camouflage," a trait animals use to conceal themselves in the wild, the youngsters learned.

During the scavenger hunt, the often exuberant students instead spoke in hushed tones and tiptoed past the snow leopard exhibit. Zoo officials had told the students that a snow leopard was pregnant and should not be disturbed.

"They feel pretty privileged to get out of the school environment," said Jason Crabtree, a fifth-grade teacher at Harkness.

Marsha Neilson, Sacramento City Unified child welfare attendance liaison, said school and zoo leaders wanted to do something unique for fifth-graders. Sixth-graders go to Sly Park, a camp near Pollock Pines; fourth-graders visit Sutter's Fort. Fifth-graders didn't really have a special trip before, she said.

The first overnight stay in 1999 was for one night, one school and 86 students. The program since has grown to four nights in the spring and four nights in the fall for students from eight participating schools.

The National Guard provided tents, cooks, some chaperones, and a discussion on being safe and maintaining a lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol.

"This is one of the coolest missions we get to do," said SFC Stephanie W. "It's great to be able to bond with (the children)."

Anne Metcalf, overnight coordinator for the zoo, said she hopes the kids will be inspired to appreciate nature.

"Hopefully, with the special trip to the zoo, they'll have more respect and love for animals, nature and (protecting) the environment," Metcalf said.

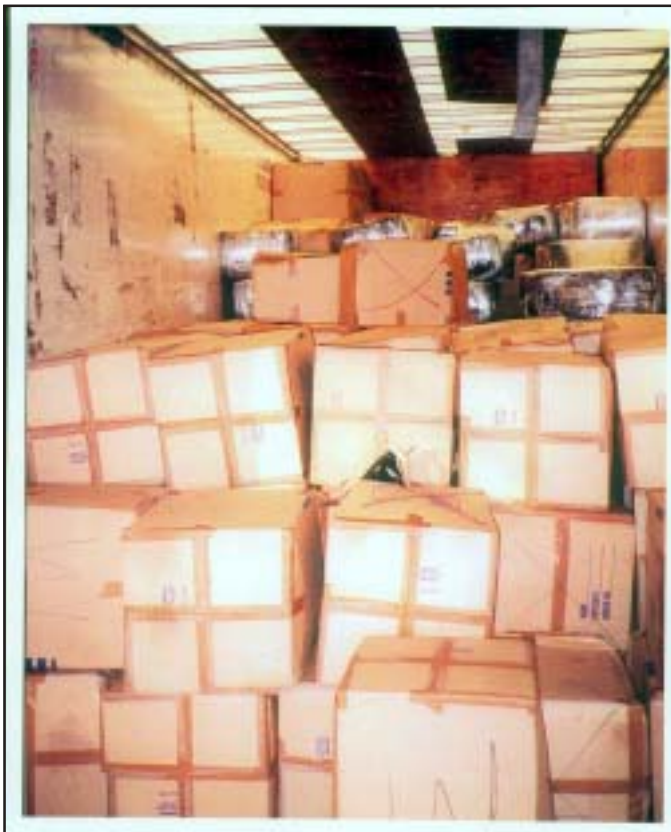
Cody Rinck, a student at John Cabrillo Elementary, said he heard the lions roar at night. He wasn't afraid, though.

With National Guard troops as chaperones, he said, "I knew we'd be safe."

Task Force helps bag 20,000lb marijuana seizure

On Feb. 21, 2003, SSgt. Troy M and CPL Dennis S. assisted K-9 Officer Petrin with the routine inspection of a north bound tractor/trailer at the Otay Mesa Cargo Facility. This inspection proved to be far from routine.

A K-9 inspector was sweeping the dock area when his dog alerted to a big rig truck. The Inspector asked the driver to open the back of the truck and the driver only opened the door halfway. The Inspector again asked the driver to open the door some more and the driver once again opened it only a little bit. When the door was finally opened all the way, the entire back of the truck was loaded with marijuana. Processing the seizure began at 2000 hrs and did not finish until 0230.



VIP's visit CDTF



COL James R. Joseph observes Customs and CDTF members unload marijuana from a vehicle stopped at the border.



COL Joseph watches as a CDTF member conducts an inspection of a bus at San Ysidro POE.

Members of the CDTF were visited by several VIP's this last quarter. Visitors included COL James R. Joseph, Chief of Counterdrug at the National Guard Bureau in Washington D.C. who visited the border region and 7 Congressional Staff members who's tour took them from the border to the central valley. The CDC and the head-quarters staff would like to thank all those who made these visits a success.

Congressional staff members (below) enjoy the view from the C-130 aircraft during their whirl-wind tour of Counterug operations in California.



Congressional staff members (below) pose beside a CDTF C-130 aircraft during their whirl-wind tour of Counterug operations in California.



CDTF member making history in Middle East

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin J. Matwey
363rd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Few people outside of the 363rd Expeditionary Communications Squadron Tactical Voice Systems unit probably noticed anything different when they placed a secure phone call at Prince Sultan Air Base Jan. 23, but that day marked the dawn of a new age for secure telephone switching.

On that date, the final circuits were moved off of a system in place here since 1996, the AN/TTC-39A — called the 39A van, or simply the 39A — a mobile tactical central telephone office. These circuits were connected to the new fixed Compact Digital System/Switch Multiplexer Unit (CDS/SMU). Starting sometime in March, the new system, built by General Dynamics, will be operated and maintained wholly by contractors as uniformed Air Force support ceases.

In recent years, the 39A active duty equipment has undergone phase-out to the new Theater Deployable Communications (TDC) suite of equipment. As such, it has been harder to find active duty personnel versed in the 39A.



Staff Sgt. Lisa L., from the 234th Combat Communications Squadron, Hayward Air National Guard Station, Hayward, Calif., and a full-time California ANG network administrator with the CDTF, pulls circuit boards during regular maintenance on the 39A Van earlier this month before the transition to newer technology secure telephone equipment.

After Sept. 11, 2001, the New York ANG was first tasked to man the van switches here. Other ANG units have since rotated to PSAB.

A little over a year ago, a concept was proposed to replace the 39A's mission completely with the newest switching technology, the SMU.

On Sept. 9, 2002, the 234th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), Hayward Air National Guard Station, Calif., was mobilized to come here to operate and maintain the 39A's. They arrived Sept. 24 with nine members, comprised of six operators and three maintainers.

By Dec. 27 everything was ready to start cutting over circuits from the 39As to the new SMU.

"These ANG folks are the best. They come out willingly deployment after deployment to share the load with us and in the case of the 39A, they even bear an extra share of the load. It pleases me a lot to know that this new SMU technology will take some of the deployment load off their shoulders," said Schoffer.

The unique mission of the California ANG unit, now beginning their sixth month here, is not only twice as long in

duration as previous ANG units doing 90-day Air Expeditionary Force rotations, or even just two-week temporary duty assignments, but also made the Hayward, Calif. 234th CBCS ANG unit most responsible for ensuring the successful handoff to the new system.

Although there are other SMUs in the area of operations (AOR), this is the Air Force's first to be configured and come on-line as a fully integrated compact digital switch capable of replacing the 39A van's mission, according to Schoffer.

According to Schoffer, "Our contractors are all highly talented and motivated. They've hit the ground running and have already made a huge impact."

Most California ANG members mobilized to come here were not expecting such a deployment, and were busy with their civilian work and family life Sept. 9, 2002.

Staff Sgt. Lisa L. is a night shift operator, whose specialty is switch programming. She is a full-time California Air National Guard network administrator in Sacramento.

"I could not have been deployed with a better group of people," said Lisa.

“Message” from page 1

computer skills, an analytical mind, and a desire to be involved in narcotics case support, need to request assignment to this mission through your chain of command. We have openings throughout this state.

Second, we need linguists. The requirement is not MOS/AFSC specific. It is language and clearance specific. If you are proficient in a language other than English, ask to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT). Should you score at the 2+ level in reading, speaking, and comprehension, and be able to obtain a Top Secret Special Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) clearance, we have a job for you that is vital to national security. Come on down through your chain of command!

Finally, drug demand reduction (DDR) needs to grow. DDR is an OSD priority. We need to expand our participation statewide. We especially need to reach out to our own Guard families. I want to place soldiers or airmen in all Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE) regional offices as well as all HIDTA offices. If you have an interest in this type of work,

let your chain of command know now.

Moan, complain, or otherwise grouse; this is the situation. Rise to it. We are not so stuck in what we do that we can't get out to expand our horizons and abilities. This task force needs those of you affected by this transition to do just that.

As to our support of the Ports of Entry (POE), we will continue to have a presence there albeit reduced. The MVACIS mission, Border Observation Group, and low light mission will continue. I understand that additional personnel are needed in this arena and we will resource these requirements with our people.

Whew! In closing I want to thank each and every one of you for your contribution in the success we had in our Command Program Evaluation. We were only non-compliant in two areas. These areas were so minor that we corrected them immediately after they were brought to our attention. I have never been prouder of the people in an organization as I am of all of you.

We are on the line daily in a campaign to ferret out the degradation drugs bring to our fellow citizens.

We are relevant and will remain so. We are “Safe Guarding” America's Future.

Safety Message

CW5 Roy Lineberry
CDTF Safety Officer

The CDTF has a new policy for accident reduction and to correct high-risk vehicle operation through risk management. It is the DMV Point Count Policy.

Let me reemphasize that the CDTF is on the State of California's “pull notice program.” What does that mean? Every time an individual receives a citation, gets in an accident, or is arrested for. The information is immediately sent to the CDTF via SMSgt Greenawalt, the J-2, HQ Safety NCO, and the HQ First Sergeant.

OK, let it be known that we know what is happening out there on the highways and byways of America as it relates to you folks in the CDTF. What we are seeing is a lot of really “high risk” behavior in the operations of all types of vehicles.

So, back to the new policy, when an individual accumulates **2 points** on their DMV record he or she will be required to attend an approved Defensive Driving Course (DDC) annually until his or her point count is reduced. When an individual has accumulated **3 points or is operating on a restricted license**, he or she will be required to complete a risk assessment (FM 100-14 or your CDTF Safety SOP) before being permitted to operate any vehicle provided by the CDTF. If a person's license is **suspended**, AR 600-55 states he or she **will not** be permitted to **operate any vehicle**. This coincides with the California Vehicle Code also.

Cell phones will not be used in any way shape or form while operating vehicles provided to you by the CDTF.

Motorcycle Safety Training and Operating Requirements, DODI 6055.4 and AR 385.55. All CA CDTF members who ride motorcycles will comply on and

off duty. The basics of these regulations are: riders of motorcycles must attend an approved motorcycle safety course and comply with all protective clothing and equipment requirements of the regulations. This means on duty and off duty, on a military installation and off an installation. This is old law. The alarming fatality and permanent disability rates in motorcycle accidents has prompted the Department of Defense to reemphasize the policy.

Accident Review Committee (ARC). The CDC has instituted the ARC's effective Jan 2003. The purpose is simple, to identify those involved in preventable accidents and correct behavior. Please review the policy. I have had the opportunity to attend one committee and review the results of another. It is a very effective tool.

First and second quarter safety statistics for FY 03.

Total accidents	28
CA CDTF vehicle accidents:	21
Personnel injury accidents:	4
POV accidents:	3
DUI arrests:	5

Eighty-five percent of the accidents are human error. That means that 85% of our accidents are preventable if our personnel would follow the standards and leaders would enforce standards.

As all of you know, we under went our biennial CPE in March. Our safety program, as well as all programs, were state of the art and will be used as a model for all states and territories within the Counterdrug Program. I want to thank the members of all teams for the robust efforts in maintaining California's “model” Counterdrug Program.

One Mean Rock Crawling Machine



TWO commander CPT Daren R. takes 1st place in a recent extreme "Rock Crawling" competition. "The Fight For Fernely", took place on May 2-4, in Fernely Nevada. Daren competes in the Cal Rocs and RCAA nationally sanctioned series events throughout the United States. The Sport of Professional Rock Crawling has been around for four years and can be seen on cable television and is covered by all of the national 4-wheel drive publications.

He is sponsored by BF Goodrich, High Angle Driveline, Power Tank, Rock Gear, and Marlin Crawler. The sport has grown large enough that many of the competitors drive for a living. Daren's answer to that, "It must be nice, however, that makes winning that much more bittersweet and rewarding".

He drives a 2,500lb monster with a custom rear steering portal axle design, twin transfer cases, special rubber compound by BFG, custom Turbo transmission with an overall crawl ratio of 349:1. His next competition is in Cedar City Utah on July 12. Good Luck!